



Despite international influence for a cease-fire, Israel continued its assault on Palestinian citizens

IN NEWS, 3

The search for a new football head coach at Cal Poly nears conclusion

IN SPORTS, 12



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MUSTANG DAILY

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Tuesday,
January 6, 2009
Volume LXXIV
Number 65

Greek life still suspended after student death

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

All Cal Poly greek life activity was formally suspended mid-December following the death of freshman Carson Starkey, a fraternity pledge who died the morning after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) party.

Starkey, 18, was found unresponsive at a local residence at about 6 a.m. Dec. 2 and was later pronounced dead. A toxicology report and autopsy were performed but results have not been released. His death is suspected to be alcohol-related given the circumstances, and there are numerous investigations as to whether hazing was a factor. Police are also investigating whether the party was a pledge event.

SAE's charter was suspended from all activity until further notice first by the university following the incident and later by the fraternity's national organization.

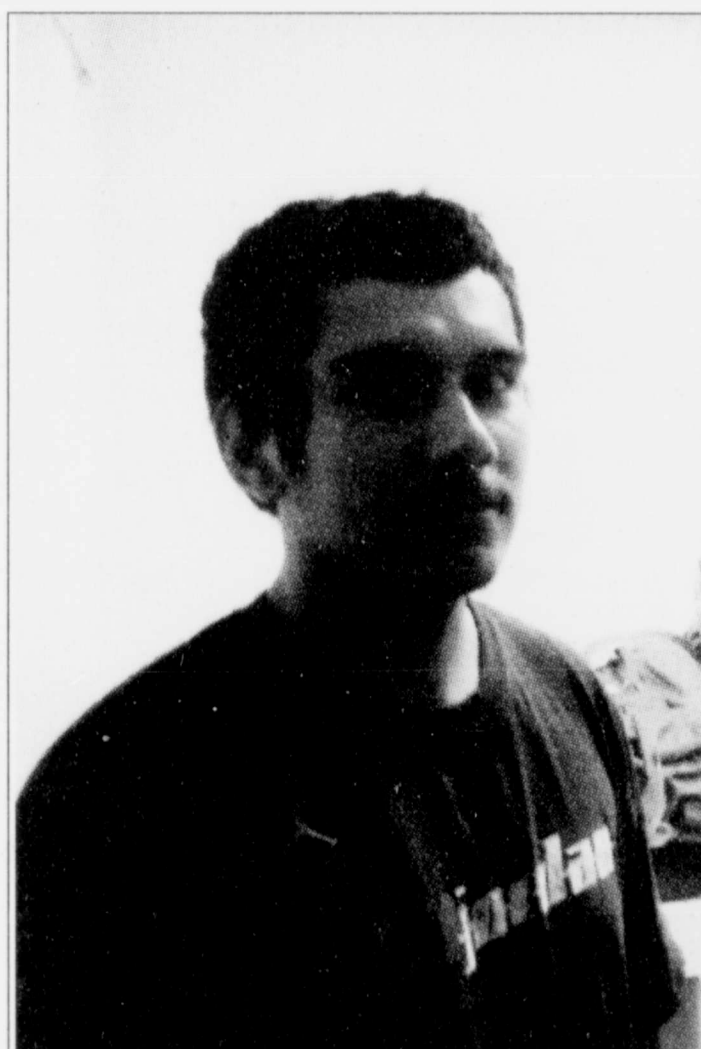
Later in December, Cal Poly Panhellenic Adviser Harmony Quismun-

do-Newman sent out an e-mail announcing the suspension of all greek activities until a special summit meeting Jan. 9-11. The meeting will include all chapter presidents and executive councils.

SAE's risk management contract includes sections on alcohol, drugs, sober rides and sexual assault. It states that "any and all pledge and/or new member activities will be dry" and "no member will force any other member to drink." It also prohibits underage drinking, requires the fraternity to have "at least two sober brothers" at every event and every member will be a "true gentleman" around women at all times.

In addition to the death of Starkey, 18, SAE has had several incidences in which they had to attend meetings with Student Life and Leadership including alcohol violations, destruction of property and alleged drugging of a sorority member.

Autopsy: medical condition caused sophomore's death



COURTESY PHOTO

MUSTANGDAILY STAFF REPORT

The autopsy of Favian Mora, an electrical engineering sophomore who was found unresponsive in his room in Poly Canyon Village in December, was released yesterday and said that his death was due to a medical condition.

Toxicology results were negative for drugs and alcohol said San Luis Obispo county public information officer Rob Bryn. No foul play is suspected.

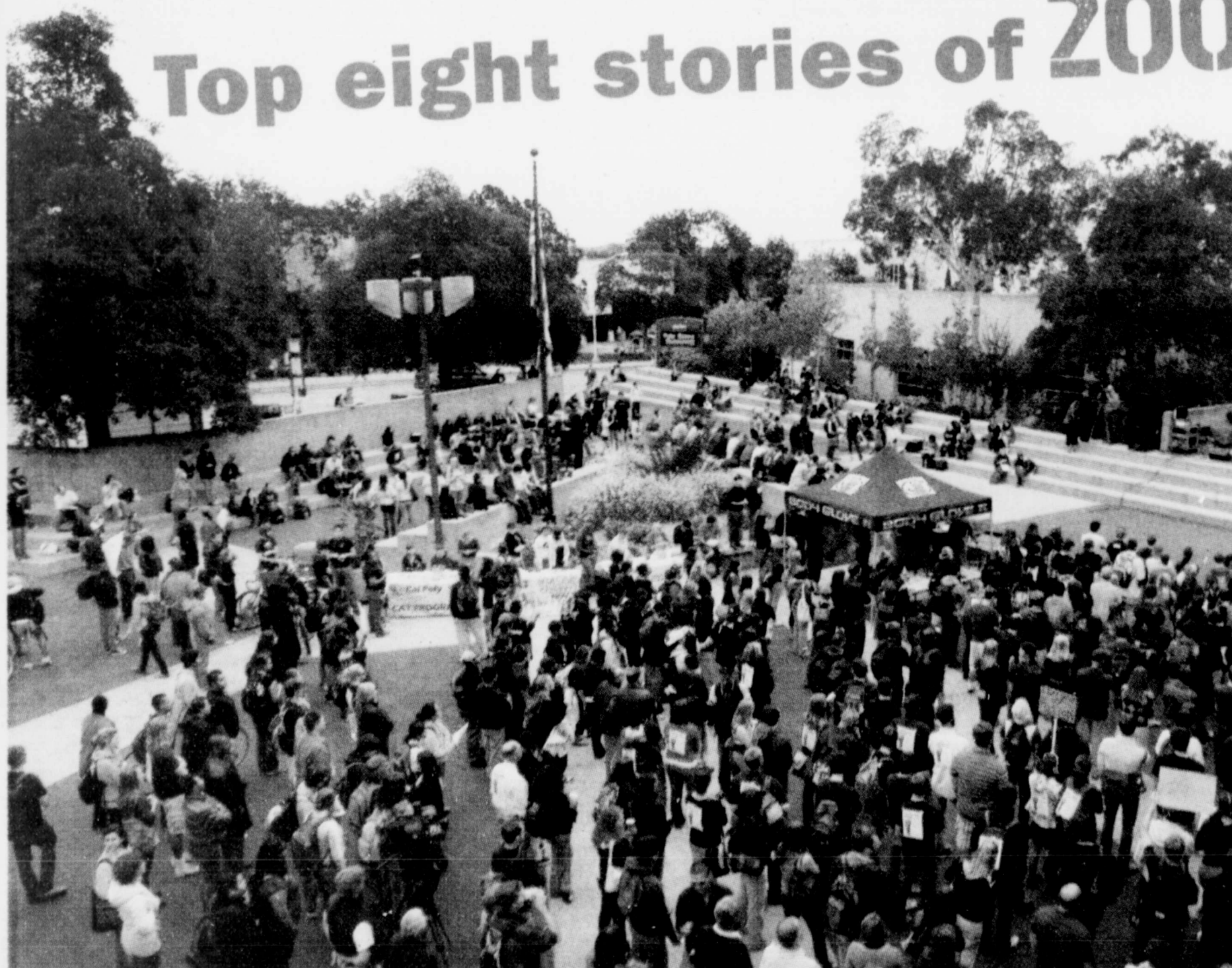
A bacterial infection caused by the bacteria called Group Beta Strep Sepsis was responsible. This bacteria is from the same school of bacteria that causes strep throat, according to David L. Harris, the medical director of the Cal Poly Heath Center.

He added that when most people are exposed to the bacteria, their bodies isolate the infection and fight it off, but sometimes it can travel into a person's bloodstream. This leads to a total body infection, or sepsis, which can cause the body to go into shock and lead to organ failure and cardiac arrest.

"The chances are miniscule," Harris said for this scenario to happen to anyone with a healthy immune system. "The lesson to take home here is if you're feeling unwell, get checked out."

Mora, 19, planned to graduate Cal Poly in 2011 and was a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. He graduated from Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose, Calif. in 2007.

Top eight stories of 2008:



July: Saudi contract signed

A controversial contract to develop and implement a new engineering program at Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia was signed by Cal Poly in early July. However, almost six months later, JUC has yet to sign its portion so the contract is not finalized and remains private, raising concerns as to whether the deal will actually go through. The five-year contract would bring \$5.9 million to Cal Poly, but opponents worry the deal will lead to discrimination against minority groups including Jews, women and homosexuals.

September: Poly Canyon Village opens

The brand-new Poly Canyon Village complex opened for move-in last week. Besides apartments for sophomore students, the village features a resident-only pool and restaurants including Jamba Juice, Peet's Coffee and Tea, Einstein Bros. Bagels and a market.

CASSANDRA J. CARLSON MUSTANG DAILY

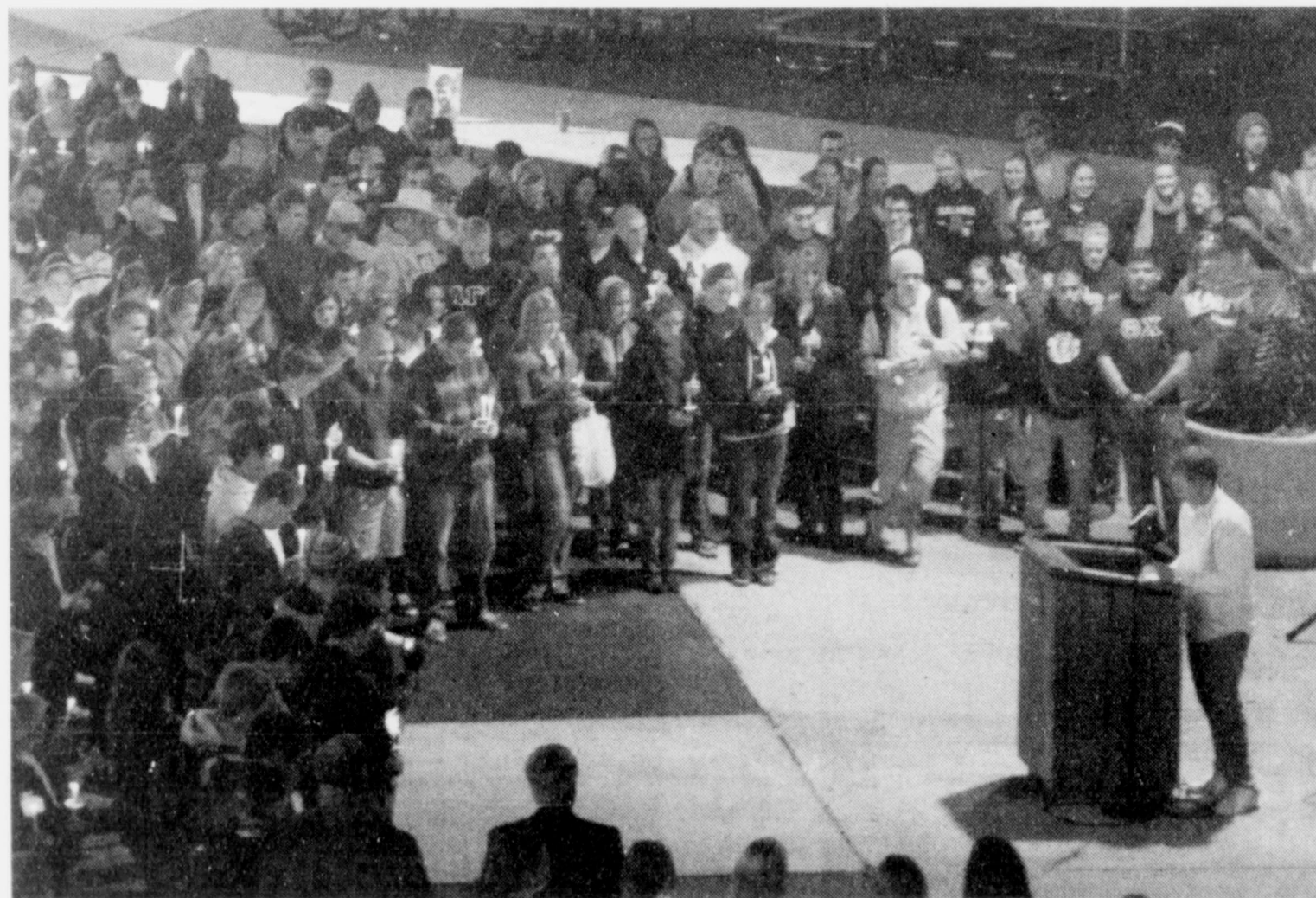
Hundreds of Cal Poly students turned out to protest the on-campus display of a Confederate flag, noose in late October.

see Recap, page 2



Cal Poly alumna Stephanie Brown-Trafton brought home the gold in womens discus at the Beijing Summer Olympics in August.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

A candlelight vigil for freshman Carson Starkey, who passed away after a fraternity party, was closely followed by a similar vigil for sophomore Favian Mora, who passed away from a medical condition only two days later.



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Recap

continued from page 1

August : Beijing Olympics

Cal Poly graduate Stephanie Brown-Trafton won the discus event at the 2008 Summer Olympic games in Beijing and became the first gold medalist from Cal Poly after posting a mark of 212 feet, 5 inches. Brown-Trafton, a 2004 engineering graduate and three-time All-American at Cal Poly, had failed to advance to the final round in 2004 and was entered as the 16th seed in 2008.

September : Budget meltdown

Due to California's budget crisis and an overall recession, the California State University system was forced to cut its budget. Provost Robert Koob responded by cutting the budget of each college in Cal Poly by 2.5 percent, leading to fewer courses and fewer teachers.

October: Racism protested

A noose and a confederate flag hanging from the balcony of the on-campus Crop House sparked a massive protest and campus-wide debate about racism and diversity on campus. A forum was also held to address student concerns.

The residents have vacated the building but any punishment would be an affront to first amendment rights according to Cal Poly.

November: Cal Poly helps elect Obama

Cal Poly students turned out in large numbers to help propel Barack Obama to win the election and become the United State's first African-American president. Students also went against the grain by voting overwhelmingly against Proposition 8, the proposal to ban gay marriage, which passed in the state.

November: Heartbreaker loss to Wisconsin

Although the Cal Poly football team beat Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) teams like UTEP and San Diego State during the Rich Ellerson era, it took things to another level on Nov. 22, 2008.

The Mustangs, at the time ranked third in the Football Championship Subdivision (I-AA), tried to become just the second FCS team since 2001 to beat two FBS squads in the same season.

They nearly pulled it off, never trailing before the final play of a 36-35, overtime loss.

The Camp Randall Stadium crowd of 80,709 in Madison, Wis. surpassed the previously largest audience in Cal Poly sports history by 48,173.

For the latest on Cal Poly football, see the sports section. To check out an audio slideshow featuring the game, go online to mustangdaily.net.

December: Two student deaths, two days

Two student deaths within several days of each other rocked campus in December. Architectural engineering freshman Carson Starkey died after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon event, a fraternity he was pledging. The fraternity has been indefinitely suspended.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Favian Mora died in his on-campus apartment two days later. The death was a result of a bacterial infection.

Candlelight vigils were held for both students.

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(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)

Gaza civilian toll rises; diplomats seek truce



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ibrahim Barzak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel ignored mounting international calls for a cease-fire Monday and said it won't stop its crippling 10-day assault until "peace and tranquility" are achieved in southern Israeli towns in the line of Palestinian rocket fire. Three Israeli soldiers died in a friendly fire incident.

Israeli forces seized control of high-rise buildings and attacked smuggling tunnels and several mosques in a campaign against Hamas militants that took an increasing toll on civilians. Three young brothers were reported killed during shelling. Palestinian wounded filled hospital corridors.

Arab delegates met with the U.N. Security Council in New York Monday, urging members to adopt a resolution calling for an immediate end to the Israeli attacks and a permanent cease-fire. At the same time, diplomats and European leaders traveled the region in an effort to stop Israel's expanding ground and air offensive.

In the first serious clash in an urban area, Israeli troops and Hamas militants fought a gunbattle on the outskirts of the crowded Gaza City neighborhood of Shajaiyeh, Israeli defense officials said. Details also emerged of an unsuccessful attempt by Hamas fighters to capture Israeli soldiers hours after the ground opera-

see Gaza, page 4

WORD ON THE STREET

"Should Obama remain mum about the situation in Gaza?"

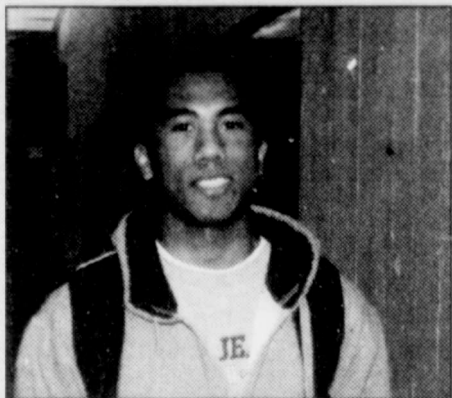


"I have mixed feelings about it. It's something that we need to know he has the ability to take care of but I wouldn't want it to be escalated by the wrong words."

-Jordan Janis
biological sciences sophomore

"As the new President-elect, Obama should speak about the international community because he's the face of America and we need to have leaders who discuss issues."

-Lacey Jones
aerospace engineering junior

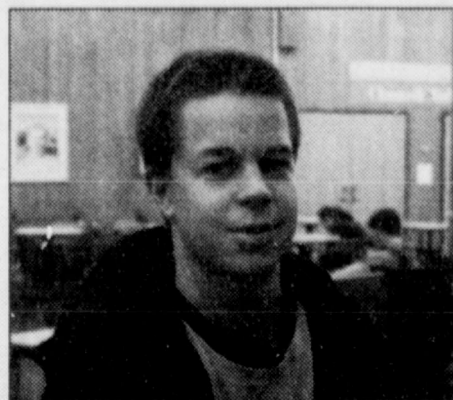


"I think he should speak on the issue... it's important for him to let the country know how he feels."

-Ben Raymond
materials engineering junior

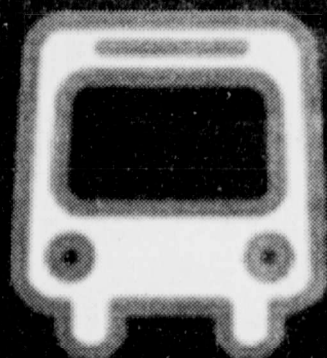
"I think he should be way more vocal. As the future president, he should be able to talk about it with everyone."

-Justin Rayala
biological sciences sophomore



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Gaza

continued from page 3

tion began Saturday with a withering round of artillery fire.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Avi Benayahu told Israeli TV the assault was going according to plan with forces sweeping through Palestinian rocket launching locations near the border.

Later, the Israeli military said three soldiers were killed and 24 others wounded Monday evening by friendly fire. It said an errant Israeli tank shell hit their position outside Gaza City, adding that initial suspicions that a Hamas booby-trap caused the ca-

sualties were ruled out. Israel Radio reported a colonel who commanded an infantry brigade was among the injured.

Despite Israeli claims that casualties have been heavy among militants, no Hamas fighters were seen Monday by an Associated Press reporter at Shifa Hospital, the Gaza Strip's largest. Instead, the hospital was overwhelmed with civilians. Bodies were two to a morgue drawer, and the wounded were being treated in hallways because beds were full.

Gaza health officials reported that since the campaign began on Dec. 27 more than 550 Palestinians have been killed and 2,500 wounded, including 200 civilians.

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Mayor Gavin Newsom is condemning the vandalism of a Catholic church in San Francisco.

Swastikas and graffiti were spray-painted on the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church over the weekend in an apparent protest of Proposition 8, which outlawed same-sex marriage in California.

Although prominent Catholic leaders supported Proposition 8, the targeted church is in the Castro District, San Francisco's gay neighborhood.

Pastor Steve Meriweather told radio station KCBS-AM that his parishioners don't support Proposition 8. "I think it's unfortunate that they selected our community to attack," he said, "because it's the wrong one."

In a statement, Newsom called the attack a "cowardly and criminal act."

SACRAMENTO (AP)

Meg Whitman, the former eBay executive who stepped onto the political landscape last year as an adviser to John McCain, is preparing to run for California governor in 2010, adding another big name to an increasingly crowded field of potential contenders.

She stepped down from the boards of eBay, Procter & Gamble Co. and DreamWorks Animation SKG as of Dec. 31, her spokesman, Henry Gomez, said Monday.

He said it was for "personal reasons and time commitments" but would not elaborate.

A person who is knowledgeable about Whitman's political aspirations told The Associated Press that the 52-year-old Silicon Valley leader is planning to run for governor.

Briefs

National

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)

— President-elect Barack Obama's decision to fill the nation's top intelligence jobs with two men short on direct experience in intelligence gathering surprised the spy community and signaled the Democrat's intention for a clean break from Bush administration policies.

Former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, an eight-term congressional veteran and administrative expert, is being tapped to head the CIA. Retired Adm. Dennis Blair is Obama's choice to be director of national intelligence, a selection expected for weeks, according to two Democrats who spoke on condition of anonymity because Obama has not officially announced the choices.

...

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)

A Minnesota board on Monday certified results showing Democrat Al Franken winning the state's U.S. Senate recount over Republican Norm Coleman, whose lawyer promised a legal challenge that probably will keep the race in limbo for months.

The Canvassing Board's declaration started a seven-day clock for Coleman, the incumbent, to file a lawsuit protesting the result. His attorney Tony Trimble said the challenge will be filed within 24 hours.

...

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)

Gov. Bill Richardson's gold-plated resume had never been tarnished as he moved up the political ladder from congressman and diplomat to governor.

But a day after backing out of consideration for U.S. commerce secretary, Richardson faced a murky political future as a grand jury probed a possible pay-to-play deal involving one of his big political donors.

International

BAGHDAD (AP)

— The United States inaugurated its largest embassy ever on Monday, a fortress-like compound in the heart of the Green Zone — and the most visible sign of what U.S. officials call a new chapter in relations between America and a more sovereign Iraq.

U.S. Marines raised the American flag over the adobe-colored buildings, which sit on a 104-acre site and has space for 1,000 employees — more than 10 times the size of any other American Embassy in the world.

"Iraq is in a new era and so is the Iraqi-U.S. relationship," Ambassador Ryan Crocker proclaimed.

In perhaps an unintended sign of the new relationship, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did not attend Monday's ceremony because he was traveling in Iran, a country the U.S. has accused of aiding and arming Iraqi militants.

...

VIENNA, Austria (AP)

More nations must take in Guantanamo inmates once the U.S.-run prison closes, the U.N.'s torture investigator said Monday, insisting that many were held simply because they were "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Manfred Nowak told Austrian radio he hopes more countries will set aside their misgivings and show solidarity with the incoming government of President-elect Barack Obama, who has vowed to shut the detention center in eastern Cuba.

Most European nations have refused to accept Guantanamo inmates, citing national security concerns. Nowak told public broadcaster ORF he understands their reluctance, "since the U.S. government for many years represented (the prisoners) as the most dangerous ever captured."

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Travolta heartbroken over son's sudden death

Chris Gillette
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FREEPORT, Bahamas — John Travolta said Sunday he and his wife Kelly Preston are “heartbroken” over the death of their chronically ill 16-year-old son, who collapsed at the family’s vacation home on Grand Bahama.

Police Superintendent Basil Rahming has said a caretaker found Jett Travolta unconscious in a bathroom late Friday morning and he was later pronounced dead at a Freeport hospital. The youth was last seen entering the bathroom on Thursday, according to Rahming’s police statement.

“We are heartbroken that our time with him was so brief. We will cherish the time we had with him for the rest of our lives,” Travolta and Preston said in their first public statement since Jett’s death.

“Jett was the most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for and lit up the lives of everyone he encountered,” said a statement posted Sunday on Travolta’s Web site.

“We have received many messages of condolence from around the world and we want to thank everyone for their prayers and support. It has meant so much to us. It is a beautiful reminder of the inherent goodness in the human spirit that gives us hope for a brighter future.”

Preston and Travolta have said that Jett became very sick when he was 2 years old and was diagnosed with Kawasaki Syndrome, an illness that leads to inflamed blood vessels in young children. Preston blamed household cleaners and fertilizers, and said that a detoxification program based on teachings from the Church of Scientology helped improve his health, according to People magazine. Others said Jett was prone to seizures.

Michael McDermott, an attorney for the actor, said Sunday that although Jett was last seen Thursday and found the following day, he doesn’t believe that the teen was in the bathroom for a substantial amount of time.

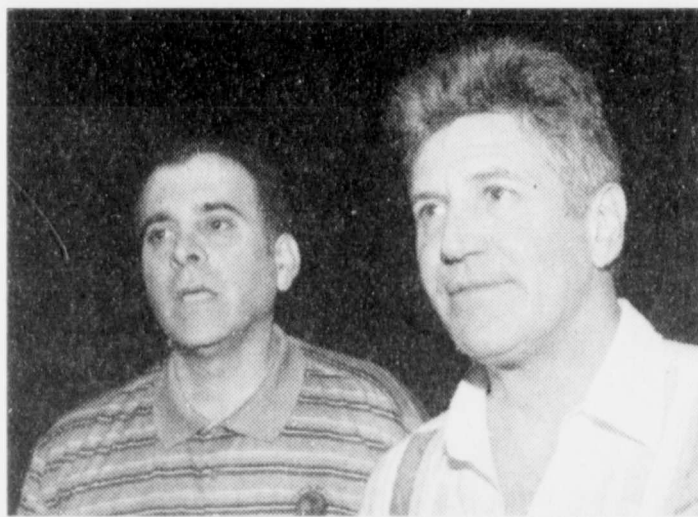
“The police left the impression that the boy was unsupervised. No. There were two nannies with him for the entire evening,” McDermott told The Associated Press. “They made it seem like he was sent to the condo and nobody checked in on him until the next morning.”

“(Jett) was spectacularly supervised,” said McDermott, who said he has not had the chance to talk to the two nannies himself.

McDermott said he had no knowledge of Jett’s medical history but “understood he had a history of seizures.” It is unclear whether Jett was taking medication for that.

The Bahamas’ health minister, Dr. Hubert Minnis, has said that a second, U.S.-certified pathologist will fly in at dawn Monday to assist with the teenager’s autopsy.

“I have spoken to (Travolta) and informed him



ALAN DIAZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Travolta’s attorneys Michael Ossi, left, and Michael McDermott talk to reporters in the Bahamas on Saturday, Jan. 3. John Travolta’s 16-year-old son, Jett, was found collapsed in a bathroom on Friday after having a seizure and hitting his head on the bathtub at the actor’s vacation home in Grand Bahama, according to a police officer who declined to be named. He was taken by ambulance to a Freeport hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



ALAN DIAZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

The entrance of John Travolta’s vacation home in the Bahamas where his 16-year-old son, Jett, was found collapsed in a bathroom on Friday is shown.

that the government is doing everything it can,” Minnis said Sunday, adding he could not disclose further specifics about the autopsy.

About a dozen security guards and Bahamian police officers patrolled Sunday around the luxury Old Bahama Bay resort community where Travolta and Preston remained inside their home. The white-sand beach in front of the suites was closed.

The couple also have an 8-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu.

Travolta, 54, is trying to finish funeral arrangements and hopes to fly his son’s body to Florida by midweek, McDermott said. Travolta and Preston, 46, have a house in Ocala, Florida.

The Church of Scientology, established in 1945 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, has attracted numerous celebrity followers, and among its more famed members is Travolta, who has long been one of Hollywood’s biggest names.

First lady Laura Bush to release memoirs in 2010

Hillel Italie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — First lady Laura Bush, among the most reserved and enigmatic public figures of recent times, will, at last, tell her story.

How much she will disclose remains a mystery.

Bush has agreed to write a memoir with one of the world’s oldest publishing houses, Scribner, the house of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and the first lady’s mother-in-law, Barbara Bush. Publication for the book, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2010.

“I am curious about Laura Bush and I believe others — people you would expect to be supporters of a Republican first lady, and other people, too — are just as curious about her,” says Scribner publisher and executive vice president Susan Moldow, one of several publishers to meet last fall with the first lady.

“She was forthcoming about her own reticence. She understands she has not put herself forward and that this is her chance to share the information she wants to share. I know it will be interesting, in a surprising, unfiltered way.”

The potential audience is enormous. Despite eight years in the White House, Laura Bush is essentially unknown to her many admirers, who have speculated about her politics (rumors abound that she’s more liberal than her husband), her marriage and a car accident when she was a teenager. A former librarian, Bush is also known as a devoted reader whose favorite authors include Cormac McCarthy, Truman Capote and Toni Morrison.

In a statement issued Monday by Scribner, Bush said that she looked forward to working with the publisher “as I tell the stories of the extraordinary events and people I’ve met in my life, particularly during my years in the White House.”

But rival publishers doubt the information Bush wants to share is the same that the public wants to read; they also question whether her advance — while surely worth millions — matches the \$8 million Hillary Rodham Clinton received for “Living History.” Executives from two publishing houses who spoke with the first lady said they decided not to offer bids. The executives asked not to be identified, citing the confidentiality of the talks.

Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Inc., part of CBS Corp., prevailed in an auction in



FREDDIE LEE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Dec. 22, 2008 photo provided by FOX News Sunday, first lady Laura Bush speaks with FOX News Sunday’s Chris Wallace during an interview at the FOX studios in Washington. Bush has agreed to write a memoir with one of the world’s oldest publishing houses, Scribner, the house of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and the first lady’s mother-in-law, Barbara Bush. Publication for the book, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2010.

volving several publishers, according to Bush’s literary representative, Robert Barnett.

Neither Moldow nor Barnett would offer financial details, but both say the memoir will be candid. Barnett, whose clients include Hillary Clinton and former President Bill Clinton, disputed concerns by noting that you never “reveal your best material in multi-publisher meetings.”

Moldow said she anticipated a lively and fascinating book, and added that she never sought a “tell-all” from the first lady.

“I think she is clearly a very loyal person and she is also not someone you would expect explosive information from,” she said. Asked what she hoped for in the book, Moldow said, “I want to learn her view of things; that’s what I want to hear.”

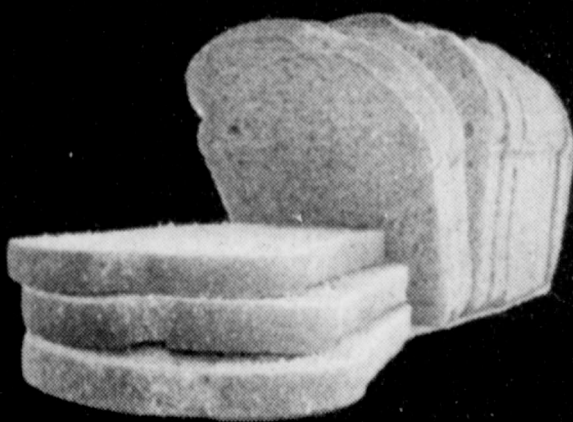
According to Barnett, Bush has not started the book, but “wants to get right to work on this project when she leaves the White House. It is a high priority for her.”

Bush will have a collaborator — still to be determined — to help her meet the 2010 publishing date. Former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton’s memoir “Living History” was released by Simon & Schuster two and a half years after she left the White House, well into her first term as New York senator.

see Bush, page 7

mustangdaily.net

It's the best thing since sliced bread.



'Marley & Me' remains box office top dog with \$24M weekend



David Germain
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Aniston, Owen Wilson and their little dog have not lost their box-office bite.

The family tale "Marley & Me," starring Aniston and Wilson as owners of an adorably mischievous pooch, took in \$24.1 million to finish as the No. 1 movie for a second-straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The 20th Century Fox flick raised its total to \$106.5 million since opening Christmas day.

With no new wide releases, the weekend shaped up largely like the previous one, with Disney's Adam Sandler comedy "Bedtime Stories" in second-place with \$20.3 million.

Rounding out the top-five again were Paramount's Brad Pitt romantic drama "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" with \$18.4 million, MGM's Tom Cruise World War II saga "Valkyrie" with \$14 million and the Warner Bros. Jim Carrey comedy "Yes Man" with \$13.9 million.

In a season loaded with wartime stories, two more Nazi-themed films opened in limited release.

Paramount Vantage's "Defiance" debuted with \$121,000 in two theaters for a whopping average of \$60,500 a cinema.



DAN STEINBERG ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top ten estimated ticket sales (in millions) for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC.

\$24.1	"Marley & Me"
\$20.3	"Bedtime Stories"
\$18.4	"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"
\$14	"Valkyrie"
\$13.9	"Yes Man"
\$10	"Seven Pounds"
\$7	"The Tale of Despereaux"
\$5	"Doubt"
\$4.9	"The Day the Earth Stood Still"
\$4.8	"Slumdog Millionaire"

By comparison, "Marley & Me" averaged \$6,862 in 3,505 theaters. "Defiance" stars Daniel Craig in the story of Jewish brothers who form a band of freedom fighters against the Nazis in Eastern Europe.

ThinkFilm's "Good" opened with \$9,300 in two theaters, averaging \$4,650. The film casts Viggo Mortensen as an upright German academic gradually seduced into the Nazi fold as World War II approaches.

Hollywood finished 2008 with solid returns. Domestic movie revenues totaled \$9.63 billion for the year, just shy of the \$9.68 billion record set in 2007, according to box-office tracker Media

see Movies, page 7

"Bedtime Stories" starring Adam Sandler had the second highest weekend ticket sales.

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Please Enjoy Responsibly

Beyonce's album is half decent, literally

Ryan Broderick
THE CHRONICLE (HOFSTRA U.)

Beyoncé's latest album, "I Am... Sasha Fierce," is a complicated mess. It's cut into two discs, the first being "I am..." and the second being "Sasha Fierce." Upon first listen, the question that comes to mind is what is the alter ego all about? The answer: something to do with "creating a sensual, aggressive alter ego." The real answer of course is that "I am..." is a challenging and interesting take on pop music and "Sasha Fierce" is a piece of garbage.

Each CD opens with a single; "I Am..." opens with "If I Were A Boy," which is an unbelievable track for the singer. Beyoncé's done quiet ballads before, but not with the intensity and edge that she pulls off here. Her vocals are strong, the production is sleek and it's a solid pop song. The rest of the disc continues along the same path, with simple and genuine lyricism. It dips off a bit with "Disappear," but "Avia Maria" picks it back up and it ends on a more or less strong note.

"Sasha Fierce" opens with "Single Ladies," and the anthemic dance song is catchy and strong. The only thing it suffers from is repetition. Three minutes and 13 seconds is far too long for the same chorus over and over again. But the rest of the album tries really hard and falls even harder.

"Diva" is nonsense, "Video Phone" is worse and "Sweet Dreams" sounds like an old Britney Spears B-side.

The fact that a pop record has mediocre filler on it isn't a surprise, but what is unfortunate is the scale of how much marketing went into the CD's release. It's a two disc CD, but there's no need for this. The standard edition set only has 12 songs. Twelve songs fit on one CD. Twenty-four songs fit on a CD. Even with all the bonus tracks on the deluxe edition, it's only 19 tracks.

What the alter ego really seems to be used for is to hide the fact Beyoncé wanted to go one way with her music and the label wanted to go the other. The minute the album loses its realism it becomes unlistenable.

Another negative aspect of "Sasha Fierce" is the complete lack of Beyoncé's range. It's only in the



COURTESY PHOTO

Beyoncé's new album "I Am... Sasha Fierce" was released last month. The CD has received mixed reviews.

simple power ballads does her range become fully utilized. The dance singles have a smaller range than even Natasha Bedingfield, and less hooks.

At the end of it all, Beyoncé's confused album suffers because it's stuck between two incredibly contradictory moods and the worst part is, it doesn't even try and hide the fact. Instead of trying to fix the problems and create some kind of decent, cohesive album, it only tries to monopolize on the imperfections before everyone realizes it is a flawed album.

Don't pick up the album; buy the singles from iTunes and pretend the rest of the album's just as good.

Movies

continued from page 6

By Numbers.

Factoring in 2008's higher admission prices, the number of tickets sold fell to 1.35 billion, down 4.3 percent from the year before.

That was a solid result given hard economic times, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

"The movie industry is totally holding its own in the face of the recession, increased competition from other entertainment options and emerging technologies," Dergarabedian said.

The new year was off to a good start, with the top-12 movies taking in \$130.1 million, up 7.4 percent from the same weekend in 2008.

"Marley & Me" remained the pet picture for audiences looking to relax and unwind over the holidays, said 20th Century Fox distribution executive Bert Livingston.

"A picture doesn't stay No. 1 for two weeks without getting great word of mouth," Livingston said. "It's a feel-good movie. That's what people want to see right now."



BARRY WETCHER ASSOCIATED PRESS

Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and an adorably mischevious canine raked \$24 million over the weekend in the top box office hit "Marley & Me."



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" starring Brad Pitt ranked third in weekend ticket sales.

Bush

continued from page 5

Bush co-authored a children's story with daughter Jenna, but she clearly has more experience reading books than writing them. Moldow says that while Bush offered no writing samples, the first lady's in-person speaking style demonstrated "what a distinctive voice she has."

It will be the collaborator's job, Moldow says, "to capture that, because I don't think people have heard it as clearly as I did."

Moldow says that Bush will help publicize the book. Recent first ladies, including Barbara Bush, have had more dependable appeal with readers than their husbands have had. President George W. Bush said last year that he, too, wants to write a book. Publishers, noting his poor approval ratings, have urged him to wait.

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Mustang Daily

"This quarter it's no more miss nice Emilie"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

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8

Small resolutions help save the world



JON KRAUSE NEWSART

Welcome to 2009. Now make one resolution. Make one simple decision, about one thing in your life that you can change to reduce your impact on the planet. Make it something achievable. Make it something that's important to you.

Statisticians have estimated that only 29 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions these days, and only two out of 10 of them actually follow through with their goals. Be that minority. You have 358 days to become a better version of yourself. Get on it.

Typically it seems that New Year's Resolutions center around large, nebulous topics such as losing weight or increasing our net worth. What follows is a list of some more fine-tuned suggestions for resolutions. Some are specific, others are a bit more abstract. There are no real surprises in the mix, considering that this is an environmental column after all. But I do encourage you to pick a few of them and really make the effort to improve your lifestyle.

Personally, I'm going to put a lot of focus on the foods that I eat this year. I'm finally going to get around to reading Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Changing dietary habits is a very simple

and direct way for me to reduce my impact and feel better in the process. Like most other college students, I'm a convenience-oriented eater. I'll eat whatever is around at the time, without much regard for my personal health or the origins of the products. But that's going to change this year.

— You are (as green as) what you eat. If we cut down our meat consumption and buy organic when possible, we will also be reducing our consumption of land and water and our contributions to the pollution of both. We can begin to implement positive daily food changes now, in big or little steps. Eating local is the single-best thing you can do to curb climate change. The average American forkful of food traveled 1,500 miles to reach your mouth. By eating local, we save the livelihoods of local farmers, and we save emissions from transporting food. Eating local also allows us to eat fresher, more nutritious food and become more closely connected to the land and the seasons. Go on a "low-carbon" diet. Author David Gershon has devised a detailed plan of energy-slimming actions to indi-

see Green Spot, page 9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Israeli attacks on Hamas are justified self-defense

Last week, in a program aired on public radio regarding the Israeli bombardment of Hamas positions in Gaza, a Hamas spokesman said: "If this is not Holocaust, then I don't know what Holocaust is." And he is absolutely right. He does not know what Holocaust is.

The Holocaust was the murder of 6 million innocent Jews, who were killed just for being Jewish, not because they were fighting the Germans or terrorized the German civilians or were armed and had sworn the destruction of Germany. They were murdered for being Jewish.

Since 2003, Palestinians have launched 9,400 rockets and mor-

tars into civilian populations of Sderot, Ashkelon and Be'er Sheva, 3,200 in 2008 alone, close to 600 during the six-month truce since June, resulting in at least 28 deaths, over 1,000 injured and countless property damage. Think about that! Israel has the right, and an obligation to her civilian populations under rocket attacks from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, to protect them. Equating Israel's defense of her citizens with the Holocaust is a shameful disgrace.

No doubt countless instructors at Cal Poly will also blame Israel in their classes. You, the students who are subject to this, should ask those faculty members why they think Hamas should be able to launch rockets on Sderot and Ashkelon's civilian popula-

tions, indiscriminately, including schools, houses, hospitals, etc., while Israel is blamed by them for defending herself. Even Mahmoud Abbas has put the blame squarely on Hamas. Is it Israel's fault if Hamas keeps weapons and manufacturing facilities in houses, in the university and in mosques?

Benjamin Goodman
San Luis Obispo resident

Israeli attacks on Hamas are terrorism

If the Israeli attacks on Gaza do not embody the essence of terrorism, I am not sure what else would. Israel is showering bombs on Gaza and has begun a ground invasion, terrorizing the 1.5 million innocent civilians living

in this tiny strip of land. Israeli sanctions have already caused a severe humanitarian crisis, denying Gazans electricity, food, fuel, medicine and other basic necessities. With the recent attacks on Gaza, over 500 innocent Palestinians have died and over 2,000 wounded. These numbers surpass the Israeli casualties over the last seven years!

Collective punishment of an entire people is morally and legally unjustifiable. Unfortunately, our own tax dollars are financing the Israeli massacre. Israel is the largest recipient of military aid from the United States, and over \$30 billion dollars are allocated to Israel over the next decade (endtheoccupation.org). According to American law, however,

Hamas, Israel share blame in Gaza conflict

Travis Schulze

THE LANTERN, (OHIO STATE U.)

Palestinians carry a dead man into Shifa hospital in Gaza City, killed during the Israeli army operation in Gaza, Sunday. Israeli ground troops and tanks cut swaths through the Gaza Strip Sunday, bisecting the coastal territory and surrounding its biggest city as the new phase of a devastating offensive against the Hamas group gained momentum. The Israeli military used overwhelming firepower from tanks, artillery and aircraft to protect the advancing soldiers, and Gaza officials said at least 31 civilians were killed in the onslaught. One Israeli soldier was killed.

As the conflict in Gaza escalates, it seems that the only group without blood on its hands is the one that has paid the greatest cost: the civilians of Gaza. Israel has again chosen to collectively punish Palestinians for the actions of Hamas with a response completely disproportionate to the rocket attacks on their country.

Before the ground invasion by Israel on Saturday, there had been 430 Gaza casualties, including 26 women, 74 children and an unknown number of male civilians. Israel has suffered four deaths from the rocket attacks.

And although Israel has directly caused the most damage in this conflict, Hamas is no less responsible. Hamas has chosen to direct rocket fire at the cities of southern Israel, deliberately targeting civilians. Hamas knew what the response from Israel would be, yet ignored the effect it would have on the lives of the people they claim to represent. Hamas has even used mosques and university buildings as weapon building sites, gambling on

Israeli's unwillingness to bomb such civilian sites and risking the safety of Gaza civilians. Throughout this conflict, Hamas has



JOHN OVERMYER NEWSART

seemed willing to trade the blood of innocent Palestinians for the possibility of a political victory against Israel.

As Israel and Hamas fight for victory in this conflict, it is the

civilians of Gaza who suffer. Their already weak economy was destroyed by the Israeli-led boycott, and now much of Gaza lies in rubble. It is time for the powers that be in this conflict to stop and think about those they are hurting. It is time for both sides to turn the other cheek.

Hamas, if it truly cares about its fellow Palestinians, should stop its rocket attacks and start to worry more about its own people and less about chasing the unattainable dream of ending the "occupation."

And if Hamas chooses not to stop its rocket attacks, Israel needs to stop following the misguided lead of the United States. It must respond to terror not with missiles, bombs and economic sanctions, but by attacking the underlying problem of Palestinian poverty.

Although Israel might win a short-term victory against Hamas in this current conflict, they are fueling the extremism of the next generation. If Israel chooses to continue punishing a whole nation of people for the actions of a few, this conflict will never end. Instead, Israel should defuse the extremism by working to build the Palestinian economy. They need to re-open Gaza borders and not only allow aid from other countries to go to Gaza, but also work to provide aid on their own. Instead of working to destroy the infrastructure of Hamas, they need to work to build the infrastructure of Gaza. If Israel can improve the lives of Palestinians, Hamas and other extremist groups will be helpless to do anything but watch as their support dwindles.

Travis Schulze is a columnist for The Lantern at Ohio State University.

Green Spot

continued from page 8

vidually lose 5,000 pounds of carbon or more annually. Considering the average American household has a carbon footprint of 22,000 pounds per year, there's plenty of carbon to cut. For more information, go to www.empowermentinstitute.net.

— **Set the "zero-waste" goal.** Make recycling, composting, washing and reusing a common practice in your daily life. A mature tree will produce just 14 newspapers. The energy saved by recycling one aluminum container will run a television for three hours. Recycling one glass bottle will save enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. Carry your own mug or reusable water container to avoid generating more petroleum-based plastics. Stash a set of tote bags in your car for shopping, and refuse to accept any disposables. The Grassroots Recycling Network has plenty of tips on their Web site, www.grrn.org.

— **Drive less.** According to the Union

of Concerned Scientists, an individual's transportation choices represent their biggest impact on the environment. Less is more, and efficiency is key (gas-guzzling is so 2004). Take responsibility for climate change and cut your emissions now. Much of our wealth has been built by generating greenhouse gas emissions during the past 100 years.

Of all countries in the world, the U.S. needs to step up to the plate the most to curb emissions by 80 percent or more in the next 40 years. Be active! If one of your resolutions is to get more exercise, try doing your shopping and errands on foot, or by bicycle, as part of your exercise program. Walking will help keep automobile pollution down and, like carpooling, helps ease traffic congestion. Rather than driving to the gym, get outside, enjoy this Central Coast weather and get fit.

— **Educate yourself, outside the classroom.** Check out this great list of books that WorldChanging compiled: <http://www.worldchanging.com/archives/008884.html>.

If you're studying Business, Architecture, Engineering, English, or any other major, you'll find at least one book on the list that directly links your future career path with

the global sustainability movement. Whether you're an early adopter or a dinosaur is completely up to you.

— **Get involved.** Shift your values away from individual materialism and toward stronger, more connected communities. Life satisfaction depends heavily on living a more meaningful life — rich in interactions, community involvement and volunteerism.

Have a sense of your own power and autonomy to be happy. Follow your talents and passions and join a club or organization that you share a common belief with. You only have 4 or 5 (or 6) years here at Cal Poly, so make the most of it.

For a complete list of all of the clubs on campus, check out ASI's Web site, http://www.asi.calpoly.edu/join_a_club, and click on the 'Directory' tab.

Take the opportunity to make some simple, yet life changing New Year's Resolutions that will benefit you and the environment.

Ben Eckold is a business senior, the president of the Empower Poly Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.



Haha, what if I'm not an "irresponsible adult"... do I still need to be babysat by Uncle Sam? Or am I then allowed to stay home by myself without Big Brother watching?

And by the way, if the majority of Americans are irresponsible, what's your definition of responsible? The elected few? George Bush? Ted Stevens? Rod Blagojevich? Ah, I'm so glad we have politicians like them to take care of us and to legislate our lives. I'm really not sure I'd know what to do with my life if big government didn't tell me!

— **Anonymous**

Response to other comments on letter to the editor "Why I can't be a Democrat"

Wow, more socialistic 'what can the government do for me' propaganda. The government doesn't have any money to spend on these bailouts or your universal health-care, or anything else. We are in debt up to our eyeballs. We are financing these bailouts and stimulus plans with more debt, inflation and the well-being of your generation. Yet, you have no clue what is unfolding before your very eyes. It's truly sad.

— **Sean Liddell**

Response to "2008 was a year of bailouts, 2009 is a year of hope"

countries that commit human rights abuses with American aid are to be sanctioned and aid is to be cut off.

It is our responsibility as American citizens to protest the use of U.S. weapons for terrorist purposes, and demand a halt to the Israeli military incursion and devastating sanctions. What can YOU do to help? Learn more about the humanitarian crisis, raise awareness on campus and in the community, and make your voice heard to senators and congressman. Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East is also holding a protest this Thursday starting 11a.m. at the University Union, so be sure to show up and spread the word!

Naiyerah Kolkailah
2008 biology alumnus

A humor column with a cause

Marci Palla's Friday column, "Do you wear sunglasses at night?" was the best thing I've read in years.

Granted, I don't do that much reading, and my selections are limited to old copies of the New Times and the Mustang Daily, since I can't find anything else laying on the men's room floor, but I still say bravo.

I applaud Ms. Palla for her contribution to Douchebag Awareness and hope she will continue to advance the fight against douchebaggery where and whenever it rears its douchey, backward-hatted head.

Jesse Bo Widmark
architectural engineering senior

Political beliefs can be anywhere along the spectrum

In response to "Why I can't be a Republican":

Hey Everett, because you're a business major you must be a white, bland, unintelligent party animal who's going to spend his boring existence working under people with a real major. Oh wait... that would be describing millions of people who all fall under a certain label with exactly the same general and oversimplified words — a.k.a: stereotyping to the extreme. There are conservatives who are just as focused

on national health and sustainable practices as their fellow liberals, in the same way that there are liberals who are just as worried about their own fiscal security and the protection of personal ideals as fellow conservatives.

Our country was founded on the idea of a free marketplace of radically varied ideas. What makes this country so great is the freedom for the individual to think and believe in a different manner than his or her fellow man, instead of a country full of individuals who are all uniformly "liberal," for example. In other words, Everett Lawson, get with it.

Ryan Mensing
computer science freshman

it's your turn

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Hiiiiii Darius. Welcome back to Cal Poly!

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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1202

- Across**
- 1 Ships' complements
 - 6 Org. that defends the Bill of Rights
 - 10 Sound of ... an explosion
 - 14 On the level
 - 15 ... thunder
 - 16 One of Scotland's Inner Hebrides
 - 17 Fireplace
 - 18 ... a mother with noisy kids
 - 19 ... Pictures (entertainment company)
 - 20 Indispensable
 - 22 ... a toy train
 - 24 ... a raindrop in a puddle
 - 26 Comical Costello
 - 27 Cuba, e.g., to Cubans
 - 28 Looked up to
 - 32 ... a table tennis ball (with 45-Across)
 - 35 Not enough room to swing
 - 37 Prefix with dactyl
 - 38 Not worth a
 - 39 ... brakes
 - 41 All the sounds in this puzzle together?
 - 42 ... a basketball through a basket
 - 44 "La Bamba" actor Morales
 - 45 See 32-Across
 - 46 Dermal art
 - 48 "Right now!" to a doctor
 - 50 ... a knock on a door
 - 51 ... Road Runner
 - 55 ... grease in a deep fryer
 - 59 Destine for, as oblivion
 - 60 Count ... of Lemony Snicket books
 - 61 Run for it
 - 63 Egypt's Nasser
 - 64 It follows first, second and third
 - 65 ... a porker
 - 66 Classic British Jaguar
 - 67 Columnist's column
 - 68 Judge
 - 69 Test track features
- Down**
- 1 ... champagne glasses
 - 2 Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"
 - 3 Ham-and- (incompetent sort)
 - 4 Boar
 - 5 Braces (oneself)
 - 6 ... a surprised German
 - 7 ... a hen
 - 8 Mascara's place
 - 9 Maintain
 - 10 Serving with ham and gravy
 - 11 ... a circusgoer
 - 12 ... account (never)
 - 13 B.L.T. ingredient
 - 21 Fond ... Wis.
 - 23 Get-up-and-go
 - 25 Mother-of-pearls
 - 28 Relaxed
 - 29 Second serve, for example
 - 30 " ... Brockovich"
 - 31 ... a doorbell

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	G	N	E	S	B	A	T	C	H	L	B	J
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N	U	R	S	E	M	I	D	W	I	F	E	
S	C	R	A	M	L	E	E	S	Z	O	O	
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A	V	E	R	T	O	A	R	S	M	E	N	
T	H	R	E	A	T	A	C	H	E	A	L	E
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Fiesta

continued from page 12

eyes stifled the high-powered Longhorns, who averaged 43.9 points this season but mustered only a field goal in the first half. They didn't lead until a nifty third-quarter touchdown run by McCoy, who also threw for 414 yards and two scores with an interception.

The Longhorns finished in a three-way tie atop the rugged Big 12 South and thought their 10-point victory over Oklahoma should have put them in the conference title game. But Oklahoma was declared the division winner on a BCS standings tiebreaker, and the Sooners ripped Missouri in the Big 12 playoff to earn a trip to the national championship.

"This team started this way and finished this way, and they're obviously one of the best teams in the country if not the best," Texas coach Mack Brown said.

The loss was Ohio State's third straight in a BCS bowl, and capped a 1-6 bowl season for the Big Ten.

"You saw a great football game

out there, two teams going at it extremely hard," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said.

Texas players rushed onto the field after Boeckman's last-gasp pass hit the turf deep in Texas territory, then gathered in front of the band and sang "The Eyes of Texas with jubilant fans.

But early on, it looked as if the Buckeyes would finally be celebrating.

Texas brought Bevo, its steer mascot, but left its offense back in Austin, at least in a sluggish first half.

The Longhorns failed to score in the first quarter. Texas was shut out in only four quarters all season — and only once in the first quarter, in a 39-33 loss at Texas Tech on Nov. 1.

The Buckeyes took a 3-0 lead on a 51-yard field goal by Aaron Pettrey midway through the first period. Ohio State drove 43 yards in nine plays, the biggest chunk coming on a 22-yard burst by Chris "Beanie" Wells.

Four minutes into the second quarter, Texas tied it at on a 27-yard field goal by Hunter Lawrence. The Longhorns covered 57 yards, running twice for a total of no yards on

the drive.

The Buckeyes responded with a 67-yard march to the Texas 7-yard line. But Buckeyes tackle Bryant Browning was flagged for a false start on third-and-2 at the 7, and after an incomplete pass the Buckeyes had to settle for a 30-yard field goal by Ryan Pretorius to take a 6-3 lead.

Texas' best chance came late in the half, when McCoy smartly marched the Longhorns from their own 9 to the Ohio State 16 in 47 seconds.

But on third-and-2 at the Buckeyes 16 and 9 seconds to go, McCoy threw perhaps his worst pass of the season. McCoy lobbed the ball toward Cosby at the goal line, but safety Anderson Russell picked it off to kill the threat.

Had McCoy thrown the ball into the seats, the Longhorns would have had time for a chip-shot tying field goal. But they went into the dressing room still down by three.

It didn't take McCoy long to atone.

getmore
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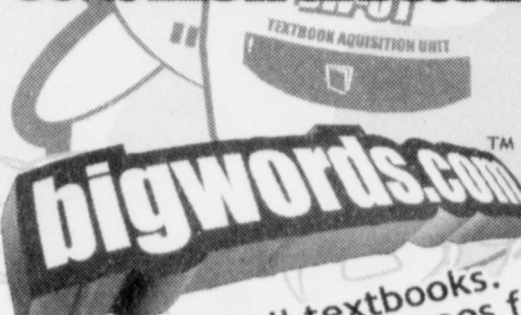

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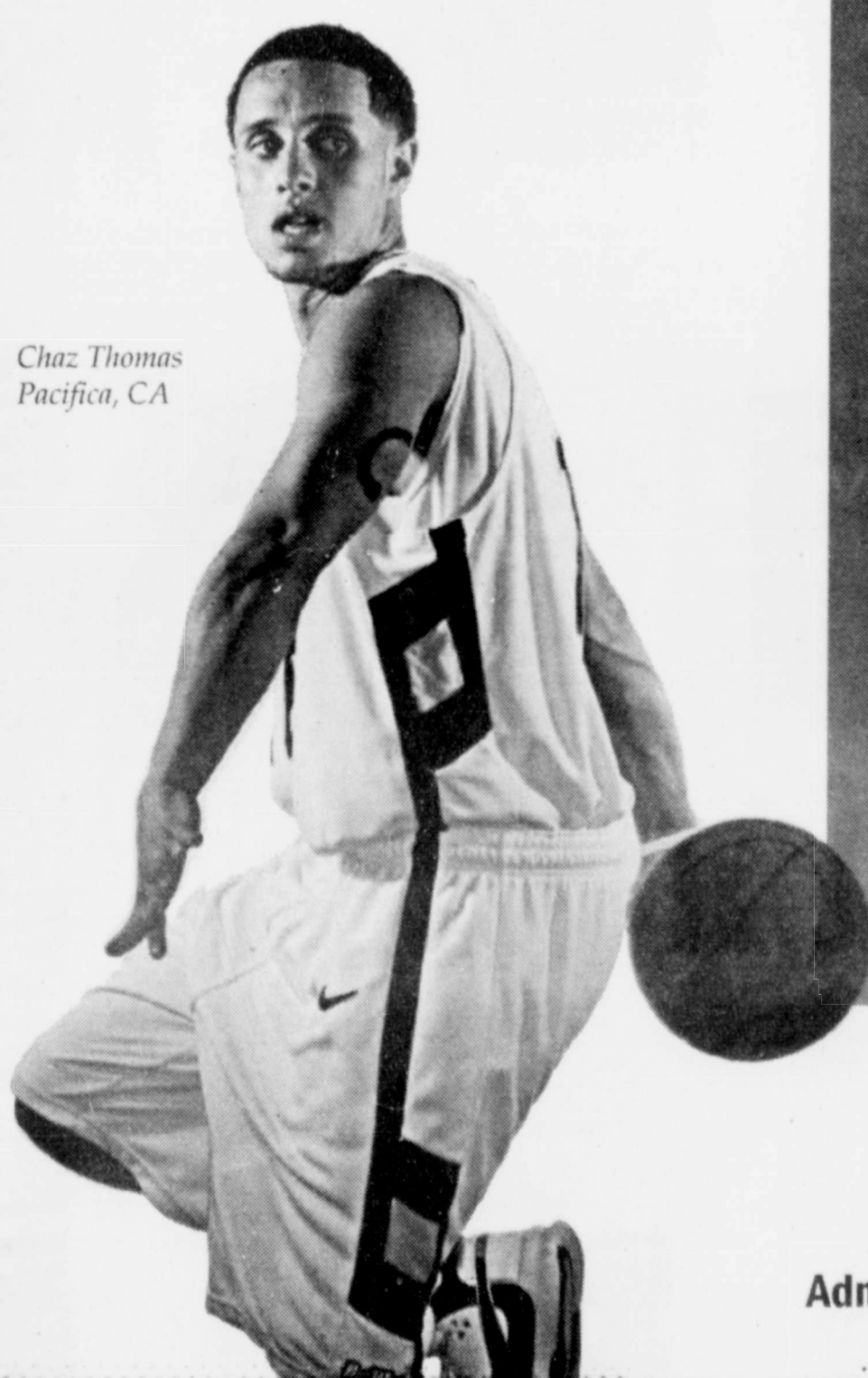
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su | do | ku
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

1	9	7	2	8	5	3	4	6
2	3	4	6	9	1	5	7	8
8	6	5	3	7	4	9	2	1
7	4	6	9	5	3	8	1	2
3	5	8	7	1	2	6	9	4
9	2	1	4	6	8	7	5	3
5	7	3	1	2	6	4	8	9
4	8	2	5	3	9	1	6	7
6	1	9	8	4	7	2	3	5

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS



Chaz Thomas
Pacifica, CA



WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

THURSDAY
Men's Basketball vs. Cal State Fullerton - 8 p.m.
Televised Live on ESPNU
*Prizes awarded for the most creative and spirited fans and most creative signs!

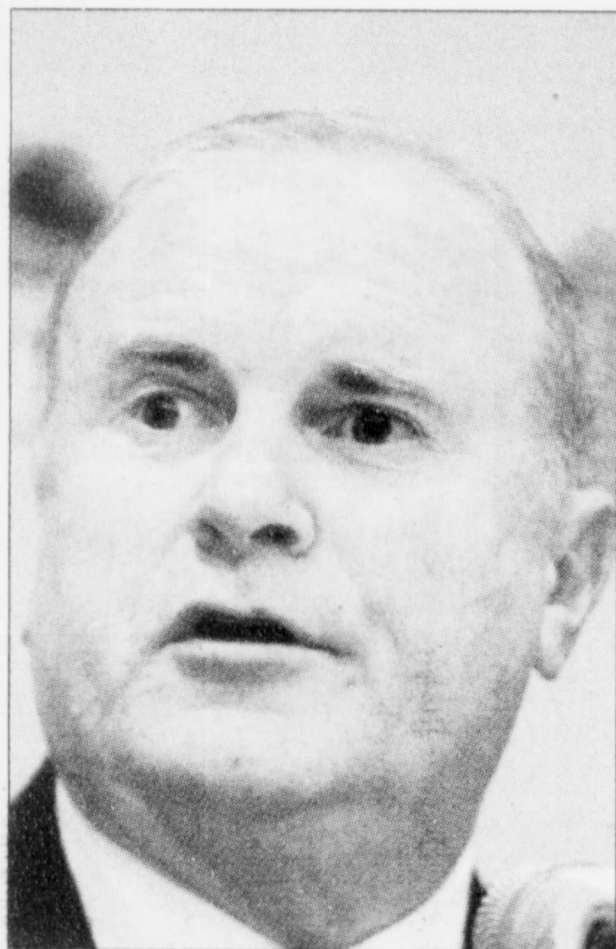
FRIDAY
Wrestling vs. Cal State Bakersfield - 6:30 p.m.
Mott Gym

SATURDAY
Men's Basketball vs. UC Irvine - 7 p.m.
Mott Gym

Admission is FREE for Cal Poly Students for all home Athletic events.

football

Search for Ellerson's replacement heats up



Former Cal Poly football head coach Rich Ellerson is introduced as the new Army coach at a press conference on Dec. 30.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Ten finalists for the Cal Poly football head coaching vacancy were interviewed over the weekend as the athletic department hopes to make a final decision by the end of this week a team official said.

Rich Ellerson left the program after eight years when he accepted the head-coaching job at Army on Dec. 26.

As many as 45 candidates initially applied for the job and after a first round of interviews, Cal Poly athletic director Alison Cone then narrowed down the list to the 10 candidates who gave a second interview.

Cal Poly did not release the names of the 10 finalists.

The school is attempting to fill the position quickly due to upcoming recruitment weekends. College football's Letter of Intent signing day is Feb. 4.

Ellerson compiled a 56-34 record as the Mustangs head coach highlighted by last season's 8-3 mark that included a final Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) ranking of eighth and a berth in the FCS playoffs.

Ellerson finished second in the ballot-

ing for this year's Eddie Robinson Award, presented by the Sports Network to the top FCS coach. He was also nominated in 2005.

Cal Poly led the FCS in total offense (487.45 yards per game) and scoring offense (44.36). They also finished second in passing

efficiency (167.72), third in rushing offense (306.45) and ninth in sacks allowed (0.82).

The Mustangs won the Great West Football Conference Championship in three of the last five years under Ellerson.

Army marks the third head-coaching position for Ellerson, who also served as head coach at Southern Utah for one season in 1996.

Ellerson, 55, has strong family ties to the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. where his father, a career Army officer, graduated in 1935. Ellerson had two siblings also attend the academy including his brother John, who lettered in football three times and served as the team's captain in 1962.

The Mustangs saw four players drafted under Ellerson's direction including third-round picks Jordan Beck (Atlanta Falcons) in 2005 and Chris Gocong (Philadelphia Eagles) in 2006. Quarterback Seth Burford (San Diego Chargers, 2002) and defensive back Courtney Brown (Dallas Cowboys, 2007) were seventh round selections.

Wide receiver Ramses Barden is also expected to be drafted during this year's draft which takes place April 25 - 26.

Rich Ellerson's Impact on Cal Poly

Record: **56-34**

Consecutive winning seasons: **6**

Players drafted into the NFL: **4**

Great West Conference Championships: **3**

FCS Playoff berths: **2**

L.T. could be sidelined Sunday by 'tough' injury

Bernie Wilson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — There was the strained groin in 2004, the lingering rib injury in 2005, a jaw injury in 2006, the knee injury in last year's playoffs and then his jammed right big toe earlier this season.

Now there's the groin injury that's dogging LaDainian Tomlinson to the point that he might have to sit out the San Diego Chargers' playoff game at Pittsburgh on Sunday.

The star running back isn't sure if a week's worth of treatment and rest is going to be enough to allow him to play.

"I don't know. It's tough," Tomlinson said after the Chargers' light workout on Monday. "This is a tough injury. I would probably venture to say it's probably the toughest of my career. We'll see what happens."

The injury, sustained in the final regular-season game, robbed Tomlinson of his burst and shiftness to the point that he came out of Saturday night's 23-17 overtime wild-card win over the Indianapolis Colts after scoring on a 3-yard run early in the second quarter.

Speedy little Darren Sproles took over after that. Sproles had 328 all-purpose yards, including the winning 22-yard touchdown run.

The Chargers say Tomlinson has a strained groin. There have been reports he has a detached tendon.

L.T. chose not to clarify the situation.

"I won't because it is a medical issue and different doctors have their opinions," he said. "I'll leave it at that."

If a week's worth of treatment and strengthening exercise go well, Tomlinson could test the groin be-

fore the game on Sunday, as he did before Saturday night's game. But he also said there's a chance he could be ruled out of the game before Sunday arrives.

"I'm pretty sure at some point I'll try it to see where I am. Then we'll see what happens. That's why we're leaving it as day-to-day and just see how it reacts."

Tomlinson hurt his left knee in last year's divisional-round upset win at Indianapolis, then aggravated it early in the AFC championship game at New England. He stood on the sideline for the final 3½ quarters of the 21-12 loss to the Patriots.

Tomlinson had the lowest output of his brilliant eight-year career just two seasons after winning the league MVP award, setting records with 31 touchdowns and 186 points, and winning the first of two straight

rushing titles.

He said he felt nervous standing on the sideline Saturday night.

"I think the thing that's toughest to me is knowing I have no control. I can't make any plays out there for the team. That's the hardest thing for me. I haven't been in that position too much where I just had to stand over there and watch."

Tomlinson said he was proud of Sproles.

"Anytime a guy gets an opportunity, you want him to do well, especially when it's one of your guys and you're all out for the same goal. We always talk about how we're going to need each other and it's not more important than it is now. We definitely need him."

Besides Sproles, the Chargers have Michael Bennett, a late-season pickup, and rookie Jacob Hester.



San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson, right, scores around Indianapolis Colts cornerback Kelvin Hayden on Saturday night.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Longhorns tackle Roy Miller holds his defensive player of the game trophy after Texas defeated Ohio State 24-21 in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday night.

Texas rallies past Ohio State 24-21 in Fiesta

Andrew Bagnato

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Left out of the national title game, Colt McCoy and Texas made the most of their trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

McCoy hit Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown with 16 seconds to play, lifting third-ranked Texas to a 24-21 victory over No. 10 Ohio State on Monday night.

The Longhorns had hoped to use the Fiesta Bowl to persuade voters they deserved a share of the national championship if Oklahoma beats Florida in Thursday night's BCS final. The Associated Press Top 25 is Texas' only chance at nabbing a slice of the title but the close victory over the Buckeyes may not be enough to persuade voters.

"I don't think there's anybody in the country who can beat us at this point," McCoy said.

The Buckeyes nearly pulled off the upset behind quarterbacks Terrelle Pryor and Todd Boeckman but instead went down to a third straight BCS bowl loss.

McCoy, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, calmly led the Longhorns 78 yards in 11 plays and 1:42 without calling a timeout. On the touchdown, Cosby caught a short pass, slipped a tackle and sprinted toward the goal line before diving into the end zone.

The Longhorns (12-1) rebounded after Ohio State (10-3) had taken a 21-17 lead on a 15-yard run by Dan Herron with 2:05 to go.

That score came five minutes after Boeckman hit Pryor for a 5-yard score to cut Texas' lead to 17-15. Pryor's pass on the 2-point conversion was incomplete.

For most of the night, the Buck-

see Fiesta, page 11